

2012 Kansas Statutes

39-1430. Abuse, neglect or exploitation of certain adults; definitions. As used in this act:

(a) "Adult" means an individual 18 years of age or older alleged to be unable to protect their own interest and who is harmed or threatened with harm, whether financial, mental or physical in nature, through action or inaction by either another individual or through their own action or inaction when (1) such person is residing in such person's own home, the home of a family member or the home of a friend, (2) such person resides in an adult family home as defined in K.S.A. 39-1501, and amendments thereto, or (3) such person is receiving services through a provider of community services and affiliates thereof operated or funded by the department of social and rehabilitation services or the department on aging or a residential facility licensed pursuant to K.S.A. 75-3307b, and amendments thereto. Such term shall not include persons to whom K.S.A. 39-1401 et seq., and amendments thereto apply.

(b) "Abuse" means any act or failure to act performed intentionally or recklessly that causes or is likely to cause harm to an adult, including:

(1) Infliction of physical or mental injury;

(2) any sexual act with an adult when the adult does not consent or when the other person knows or should know that the adult is incapable of resisting or declining consent to the sexual act due to mental deficiency or disease or due to fear of retribution or hardship;

(3) unreasonable use of a physical restraint, isolation or medication that harms or is likely to harm an adult;

(4) unreasonable use of a physical or chemical restraint, medication or isolation as punishment, for convenience, in conflict with a physician's orders or as a substitute for treatment, except where such conduct or physical restraint is in furtherance of the health and safety of the adult;

(5) a threat or menacing conduct directed toward an adult that results or might reasonably be expected to result in fear or emotional or mental distress to an adult;

(6) fiduciary abuse; or

(7) omission or deprivation by a caretaker or another person of goods or services which are necessary to avoid physical or mental harm or illness.

(c) "Neglect" means the failure or omission by one's self, caretaker or another person with a duty to supply or provide goods or services which are reasonably necessary to ensure safety and well-being and to avoid physical or mental harm or illness.

(d) "Exploitation" means misappropriation of an adult's property or intentionally taking unfair advantage of an adult's physical or financial resources for another individual's personal or financial advantage by the use of undue influence, coercion, harassment, duress, deception, false representation or false pretense by a caretaker or another person.

(e) "Fiduciary abuse" means a situation in which any person who is the caretaker of, or who stands in a position of trust to, an adult, takes, secretes, or appropriates their money or property, to any use or purpose not in the due and lawful execution of such person's trust or benefit.

(f) "In need of protective services" means that an adult is unable to provide for or obtain services which are necessary to maintain physical or mental health or both.

(g) "Services which are necessary to maintain physical or mental health or both" include, but are not limited to, the provision of medical care for physical and mental health needs, the relocation of an adult to a facility or institution able to offer such care, assistance in personal hygiene, food, clothing, adequately heated and ventilated shelter, protection from health and safety hazards, protection from maltreatment the result of which includes, but is not limited to, malnutrition, deprivation of necessities or physical punishment and transportation necessary to secure any of the above stated needs, except that this term shall not include taking such person into custody without consent except as provided in this act.

(h) "Protective services" means services provided by the state or other governmental agency or by private organizations or individuals which are necessary to prevent abuse, neglect or exploitation. Such protective services shall include, but shall not be limited to, evaluation of the need for services, assistance in obtaining appropriate social services, and assistance in securing medical and legal services.

(i) "Caretaker" means a person who has assumed the responsibility, whether legally or not, for an adult's care or financial management or both.

(j) "Secretary" means the secretary of social and rehabilitation services.

(k) "Report" means a description or accounting of an incident or incidents of abuse, neglect or exploitation under this act and for the purposes of this act shall not include any written assessment or findings.

(l) "Law enforcement" means the public office which is vested by law with the duty to maintain public order, make arrests for crimes, investigate criminal acts and file criminal charges, whether that duty extends to all crimes or is limited to specific crimes.

(m) "Involved adult" means the adult who is the subject of a report of abuse, neglect or exploitation under this act.

(n) "Legal representative," "financial institution" and "governmental assistance provider" shall have the meanings ascribed thereto in K.S.A. 39-1401, and amendments thereto.

No person shall be considered to be abused, neglected or exploited or in need of protective services for the sole reason that such person relies upon spiritual means through prayer alone for treatment in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination in lieu of medical treatment.

History: L. 1989, ch. 129, § 1; L. 1998, ch. 200, § 8; L. 2003, ch. 91, § 11; July 1.